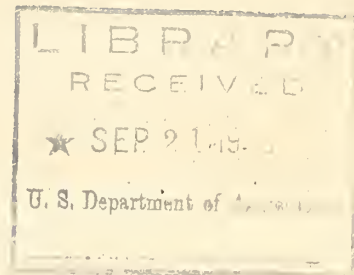


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United States Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Biological Survey



WORK AND ORGANIZATION OF THE U. S. RABBIT EXPERIMENT STATION

The activities of the U. S. Rabbit Experiment Station are concerned chiefly with the gathering of facts affecting those engaged in the production of domestic rabbits for food and fur. Closely cooperating in the solution of the problems confronting rabbit breeders are the Fontana Farms Company, National and State organizations, and scientific societies and institutions, as well as agriculture colleges, whose object is to develop rabbit raising.

The efforts of each, in its field, are encouraged by the Biological Survey, since it is recognized that forward movements, whether by large or small units, are nearer approaches to the coordinated nation-wide policy that is desired by all who have the interest of rabbit raising at heart and the same end in view.

As a public-service institution, the Biological Survey seeks to be a good cooperator, not only to State and National agencies that are working for the same ends, but also to the individual who is engaged or contemplates engaging in rabbit raising. Rabbit breeders should never hesitate to call upon the Survey for information bearing on the many problems of their business.

The U. S. Rabbit Experiment Station, maintained by the Biological Survey, in cooperation with the Fontana Farms Company and the rabbit breeders, is located in Fontana, California, and is easily accessible from Los Angeles on the Pacific Electric and Santa Fe Railroads, or by automobile. The Station is open to the public from 11 a. m. until 5 p. m. on week days and from 1 to 4 p. m. on Sundays. The Station is closed on legal holidays.

Funds for operating the Station are provided in annual appropriations made by Congress to the United States Department of Agriculture, for expenditure by the Bureau of Biological Survey in its "investigations, experiments, and demonstrations in connection with rearing fur-bearing animals."

The prime object of the Rabbit Experiment Station is to determine the best methods of producing rabbit for food and fur. The farm is not run for commercial profit through the sale either of breeding stock or of meat or fur, all energies being directed to developing the best methods for producing meat and fur of fine quality, insuring sanitary surroundings, and preventing diseases and parasites. Surplus animals are turned over to a committee, representing the cooperators in Fontana, to be sold, and the proceeds derived from

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the sale of animals and pelts are deposited in a revolving fund. This fund will be utilized for the furtherance of the work of the Station. No live animals, carcasses, or pelts are sold from the Station by the Government for any purpose.

The breeds of rabbits donated by rabbit breeders with which experiments are being carried on at present are White and Red New Zealand, Blue and White American, Flenish and Chinchilla, French Silver, Havana, American Sable, and Polish. Other breeds may be included as the work develops and funds permit.

The equipment furnished by the Fontana Farms Company includes the site of a five-acre orange grove and an administration building of white stucco structure with a red-tile roof, containing a large reception room, offices, and accommodations for laboratories. Various open and closed types of houses shelter hundreds of hutches; a sprinkler system cools these houses on hot days. An attractive residence has been provided for the director and his family. Hay and grain are stored and prepared for consumption in a large feed house. A carpenter shop and a garage complete the layout.

Permission is granted groups of breeders to hold monthly meetings in the administration building to discuss problems pertaining to rabbit raising. All meetings are open to the general public. Groups of rabbit breeders desiring to use the administration building for this purpose may arrange to do so by corresponding with the Director, U. S. Rabbit Experiment Station, Fontana, California. Request should be received at the Station one week in advance of the specified meeting date.

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